



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Member  
Minnesota  
Chiefs of Police  
Association

4-13-83

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TO: Mayor Vernon Sackett and Members of the City Council

PROPOSAL: To Establish a Volunteer, Unpaid Reserve Police Unit for the City of Grand Rapids

At present the Grand Rapids Police Department is understaffed and as a result non-essential police services have been cut back.

During the past few years Grand Rapids has become more involved with public functions involving large numbers of people, such as: Conventions, Parades, County Fair, Special Promotion Days, etc. At each of these functions it has been difficult to police properly due to the lack of manpower.

I have interviewed several Chiefs from various Minnesota communities who presently have Reserve Departments and each has given me a positive response. All commented on the many unpaid hours of assistance to their Police Department and voluntary service to the community in general.

The functions of a Reserve Officer would include, but not limited to:

- A. Assistance at civic affairs
- B. Security assignments
- C. Crowd Control
- D. Safety education
- E. Assist full-time officers as directed
- F. Ride in squads as ride-a-long
- G. Work part-time for pay at non-city functions if requested

At present I would request six(6) positions to be established with additions as the need directs.

Cost to the City of Grand Rapids:

As this would be a volunteer, Unpaid Reserve Police Unit, all equipment and its use must be monitored at all times, thus equipment should be issued by the City.

2 Shirts(summer-winter)	Approximately	\$50.00
1 Pair of Pants		30.00
1 Hat		20.00
1 Jacket		50.00
1 Tie		5.00
3 Badges(hat, jacket & shirt)		45.00
Leather & Misc.		100.00
		<u>\$300.00</u>

\$300.00 per position(Revenue Sharing Fund) \$1800.00

\$150.00 per position, equipment replacement, 1984 budget \$ 900.00

Should the City Council pass favorably on this proposal, a position profile would be adopted.

*presented to full council 4-13-83  
proposed by Huntley, second by Akre  
passed  
funded from Rev. Sharing for 83*

*Harold*

Councilman Pollard seconded the foregoing resolution and upon roll call, the following voted in favor thereof: Pollard, Akre, Kastner, Sackett; and the following member voted against same: Huntley; whereby the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

The City Engineer reported to the council events that took place during a meeting with the Grand Rapids postmaster, and a representative from the main post office in Duluth regarding the drop boxes. Paul explained the location suggested by the post office representatives, in the alley between the post office and the North Star Clinic. The representatives also suggested that this alley be designated a one way going north. If this proposal was accepted, the drop box located on 5th Street adjacent to the post office would be removed immediately, and the box on the south side of 5th Street would be monitored. If the use of that box is minimal, it would then be removed at a later date. The affected property owners were contacted regarding this proposal. Councilman Akre expressed his opinion that the original plan was still the best plan. Ross Becker, North Star Clinic, said that the new proposed location would cause problems with their emergency entrance, because of the traffic congestion. It was pointed out by the Mayor that this alley was looked at during the early stages of the process, and this alternative was eliminated. Mr. Wilcox, Grand Rapids State Bank, said that he took a survey, and 30% of their drive-in volume uses this exit going south, and that this alley is used extensively. The City Engineer said that if the box was located out in the alley, there is concern regarding traffic and maintenance. He would have to require that a protector be established around the box, and curbing would be the best solution for that. Mr. Wilcox iterated that it would constitute a serious hazard. Councilman Kastner felt that the North Star Clinic would have a serious problem at their emergency entrance. Mr. Tofte said that he agreed that the present location is terrible, and said that he suggested to the post office to locate it on their property, where the present parking lot is located. The City Engineer said that this alternative was suggested to the post office, and they objected to that suggestion. Mayor Sackett said that, because of the discussion, it appears that this solution is not acceptable to everyone concerned except the Post Office. He suggested that the city meet with the post office again. The Council agreed with the Mayor.

Police Chief Harold Snyder had submitted to the council a proposal for the establishment of a Volunteer Police Reserve force. This force would supplement the department in many community activities, such as parades, promotion activity, riding along with officers when short of personnel, traffic control, first aid, etc. He said that they would not be carrying guns, but a uniform will be issued to them and remain the property of the city. Councilman Akre said that the Council's Police Committee met, and thought it was an excellent idea. Chief Snyder said that he has received support from all of the officers for this program. The Chief, Assistant Chief, and one patrolman would select the staff. After initiation, there will also be one member of the volunteer force on the selection committee. It was also pointed out that this has been tried in other communities, and has been very successful.

Motion by Councilman Huntley, seconded by Councilman Akre, that we adopt the proposal for a Volunteer Police Reserve, as presented, to allow the Police Chief to proceed with preparation of written guidelines, policies, interviews and assignments and allow budget requirements be paid from Revenue Sharing funds. Upon roll call, the following voted in favor thereof: Pollard, Huntley, Akre, Kastner, Sackett. Opposed: None. Passed unanimously.